Cash and Carry Scheme was introduced with effect from 1-10-1991.

(iv) State Governments have been requested to persuade/enable their State Electricity Boards to clear the outstanding dues at the earliest.

(v) Joint Secretary, incharge of distribution of coal in the Ministry of Coal visited many State Governments and held discussions with the Power Secretaries and Chairmen of Electricity Boards for resolving the matter regarding clearance of outstanding dues.

(e) Yes, Sir. The net budgetary support to Coal India Limited came down from Rs. 513 crores in 1990-91 to Rs. 133 crores in 1993-94.

(f) With decline in budgetary support, CIL will have to increasingly depend on internal generation of resources and borrowings to finance its investment plans. Consistent profitability for last three years should help CIL in borrowing funds for investment from the open market.

Incentives to Small Medium Exporters

*488. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not provided any incentives to small and medium exporters in the new revised Export-Import Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the policy will benefit only large exporters, while small and medium exporters contribute about 70 per cent of the total exports of the country; and

(d) what concrete steps Government propose to take to abolish the class system and categorisation of exporters into super star trading houses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The new revised Export & Import Policy extends equal opportunity to small and medium exporters. Bulk of the country's exports in terms of value are taking place through Export/Trading/Star Trading/ Super Star Trading Houses. Such status is granted on the basis of prescribed export performance level and all exporters including small and medium exporters are extended equal treatment. If the status is claimed in terms of FOB value of exports, double weightage is given to export of products manufactured by small scale industry (SSI), Handloom and Handicrafts including Sport Goods, Hand Knotted Carpets and Silk Products. If the status is claimed in terms of net foreign exchange (NFE) earned, double weightage is given to the exports products manufactured by SSI and triple weightage is given to the NFE earned on the exports of Hand-Knotted Carpets and Silk Products manufactured by the Handloom and Handicrafts sectors. Such status holders are extended equal treatment for getting transferable Special Import Licence valid for the import of specified items of negative list of import. Under the duty exemption scheme, SSI units have been extended the facility to give the bank guarantee wherever applicable, at 50% of the normal requirement.

(d) It is not expedient to do away with the categorisation of exporters as due consideration has to be accorded depending upon the level of their export performance.